

PR/AWARD NUMBER: P425E200585
RECIPIENT NAME: Frostburg State University
Regional Develop. & Engagement

March 9, 2023

CARES Act

– Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) - 30-Day Report –

The CARES Act, which establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), directs institutions of higher education (“institutions”) to use no less than 50 percent of funds received under Sections 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Frostburg State University was awarded \$ 1,962,520.00 on April 22, 2020, with the award period ending on April 21, 2021.

In preparation for the award, Frostburg State University President Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk appointed a six-person committee to review HEERF program goals, U.S. Department of Education guidance and the expected financial needs of FSU students resulting from the disruption of the Spring 2020 semester due to COVID-19 and make determinations about how funds should be distributed.

The committee, consisting of two student body leaders (Jenna Puffinburger and Daysha Sanders) and four FSU Vice Presidents (John Short, Arlene Cash, Artie Travis, and Al Delia) unanimously determined that emergency funding would be reviewed and awarded on a case-by-case basis upon submission of an application by individual students. The initial period for which requests for emergency funding would be reviewed is March, April and May of 2020, the initial period affected by various medical concerns, restrictions to work and movement and financial impacts. The committee specifically made the decision to not award funds on some type of across-the-board or tiered need formula basis determined largely by financial documentation submitted more than a year prior to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Rather, the Committee established a detailed application, case assignment, eligibility determination, review, awarding, and funds disbursement process. With few categorical exceptions (e.g. – grocery expenditures) receipts or other documentation was required to substantiate the requested emergency funds. The two students on the Committee, by unanimous consent of the

Committee, were not to be involved with the review or awarding of applicants' requests (due to the belief that student applicant privacy should be maintained as much as possible).

Very extensive outreach and communication to the entire student body about the availability of emergency funding was conducted through direct email and campus communications organs, through various social media platforms, with use of the FSU web site, and through extensive outreach to faculty and staff to alert and encourage students with need to seek funds.

As of Friday, May 22, 2020 Frostburg State University had received 523 applications from 4,005 eligible students and acted on 207 of those applications, awarding 194 requests for emergency funds, totaling \$239,140.76. Graduate students received 6 awards totaling \$8,265, with an average of \$1,377.50 per student while undergraduate students received 188 awards totaling \$230,875.76, averaging \$1,228.06 per student. Actual total disbursed funds were \$206,016.98.

Denied applications totaled 13, with 7 denied due to the ineligibility of the applicant to receive HEERF awards; (2 were ineligible because they are not citizens or permanent residents, 4 were ineligible due to being fully online program students, 1 was a non-degree student) and 3 were denied because the applicant was seeking funds for expenses beyond the parameters established by the Committee or by HEERF.

The overall applications funded percentage was 93.7%.